

In the claims:

Kindly rewrite the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended)                      Postero-lateral intervertebral disc prosthesis comprising an element ~~(3)~~ mounted with an orientation and self-centering capability between ~~two inserts (1)~~ a first insert and ~~(2)~~ a second insert adapted to be disposed between ~~the~~ vertebral plateaus of two successive vertebral bodies, wherein:

- the first insert (1) has a planar section to be fixed on the ~~a~~ lower vertebral plateau;
- the element ~~(3)~~ has a lower planar surface for support, with a limited capacity for translational displacement on the first insert (1), and an upper surface with a generally hemispherical form;
- the second insert (2) has a planar section to be fixed on the ~~an~~ upper vertebral plateau and has, opposite thereto said planar section, a concave surface for cooperating with the hemispherical surface of the element ~~(3)~~, with the possibility of providing multi-directional articulation; and
- the first and second inserts (1) and (2) and the insert (3) are ~~have a~~ generally circular shape in the form of a disc with a diameter of less than about 30 mm and, when juxtaposed with the element between the first and second inserts, define a total height of about 11 to 15 mm to permit introduction of the prosthesis by a postero-lateral approach route.

2. (Currently amended)                      Prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the element ~~(3)~~ constitutes comprises a core of a generally hemispherical shape ~~capable of for~~ cooperating with the ~~recess (2a) having a concave shape that complements surface of the~~ second insert (2), said core ~~(3)~~ having a central positioning stud (3d) that cooperates with extending from a bottom surface, and the first insert having a central recess (1b) of the ~~other insert (1) for receiving the stud~~ in order to permit axial rotation.

3. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, ~~wherein the further comprising positioning fittings of the core (3) are constituted by coupling means (3e) which cooperate with complementary means (1a) of the insert (1) to provide a fixed connection between the first insert and the element.~~

4. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, ~~wherein the further comprising positioning fittings of the core (3) are constituted by coupling means which cooperate with complementary means of the insert to provide a mobile connection, with a capacity for limited translational displacement, between the first insert and the element.~~

5. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 3, wherein the ~~coupling means capable of positioning fittings for providing a fixed connection are constituted by comprise complementary clipping means (3e) — (1a).~~

6. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 4, wherein the ~~coupling means capable of positioning fittings for providing a mobile connection are constituted by recesses and projections that act as comprise a pivot pin (2b) — (4) connection between the first insert and the element[[.]].~~

7. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein each ~~of the inserts (1) and (2) insert has, over in its thickness, fittings (E1) — (E2) to engage gripping and handling means.~~

8. (Currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the ~~core (3) element has, over in its thickness, fittings (E3) to engage gripping and handling means.~~

9. (Currently amended)                      Autostatic retractor for fitting a prosthesis, ~~according to any one in combination with the prosthesis of claims claim 1 to 8,~~ wherein ~~it~~ the retractor is shaped so as not to injure ~~the~~ neurological elements.

10. (New)        A method of deploying an intervertebral disc prosthesis, comprising: providing the prosthesis of claim 1; and introducing the prosthesis between two successive vertebral bodies by a postero-lateral approach route.